

# Students create multilingual Web site on birds

Last May, 13 Kennewick High School students who are enrolled in a multilingual media class spent a day visiting the Hanford Reach National Monument/Saddle Mountain National Wildlife Refuge, observing and photographing birds as part of the Hands on the Land educational program. The end result of the program was a student-produced Web site in three languages that provides information on birds of the Hanford Reach.



**Kennewick High School students enrolled in a multilingual media class recently toured the Hanford Reach National Monument to help them gather information to prepare a Web page on birds of the Hanford Reach. The information on the Web page is available in English, Spanish and Bosnian.**

The goal of the Hands on the Land program is to provide a national network of field classrooms to enhance learning of kindergarten through 12th-grade students.

Partners in Resource Education, a collaboration of five federal agencies, a non-profit foundation, schools and other private-sector partners, sponsor Hands on the Land.

During the school year, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biological technician Jennifer Meisel, using taxidermy specimens and other resources, instructed the students on bird life. The field trip culminated the in-class instruction and was conducted by Meisel and wildlife biologist Heidi Newsome.

This is the second year of collaboration between the Kennewick High multilingual media class and the Hands on the Land program. This year, the students used the photos and recordings they made during the field trip and the information they learned in class to produce a Web site on "Birds of the Hanford Reach" at <http://www.handsonthe land.org/classroom/11/intro.htm>.

"This great Web site is unique — it is the only one of its kind in three different languages," said Meidel.

The Web site information is available in English, Spanish and Bosnian with two animations in English and Russian.

The students in the multilingual media class must communicate in at least two languages fluently, and every media product they create must be in at least two languages.

Students designed, drew, wrote and translated the Web-site content. Meisel and Newsome provided the class with a species list and provided input to ensure that the final product was accurate and easy to use.

Last year's project was a Web site entitled "Mammals of the Hanford Reach," and is at <http://www.handsonthe land.org/classroom/04/intro.html>.

The two projects have benefited both parties — the students and the Monument. Students have the opportunity to be outside and learn about wildlife, the shrub-steppe ecosystem and the history of the Hanford Site. The students take that experience and information and use the technology available to them at Kennewick High School to develop a Web site for a client. The Monument receives the Web site that is linked to the Monument's own Web site at <http://hanfordreach.fws.gov> and is accessible for public use. ■